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ABSTRACT

This book considers the concerns of the different groups of stakeholders in determining the direction of developments in vocational education and the contribution that open, flexible, and distance approaches can make. Chapter 1 introduces the background against which developments in the use of these approaches to vocational education and training need to be seen and interpreted. Chapter 2 identifies the major stakeholders in the field of open, flexible, and distance education that is used for vocational education and training. It analyzes the ways in which the balance of power is changing between them and the implications of changes within the stakeholder groups. Chapter 3 examines the problems to which training using open, flexible, and distance methods can be seen as a solution by focusing on needs of different stakeholders. Chapter 4 examines courses and programs using open, flexible, and distance approaches designed and used by a range of training providers. Chapter 5 focuses on the effectiveness of both the process of training through open and flexible routes and on the outcomes of the training. Chapter 6 examines the problems faced by providers charged with the responsibility for matching training needs against training options. Chapter 7 considers the issues that present the greatest challenges and the greatest opportunities to training problems and the potential of open and distance learning to offer solutions to those problems. Appendixes contain 120 references and an index. (YLB)

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